AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 6 with the following marked-up paragraph.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the wound dressing 10 of the present invention preferably includes a perforated hydrophobic, skin adherent facing layer 12, an absorbent core 14, and a liquid impervious, moisture permeable backing layer 16. The wound dressing depicted in FIG. 1 is in a dry state substantially devoid of moisture. As more fully exemplified in FIG. 2, the absorbent core 14 defines a proximal surface *p* that is intended to face towards a wound surface [[w]] and a distal surface *d* that is opposed to the proximal surface *p* and faces away from a wound surface. In a basic configuration, the dressing 10 comprises the facing layer 12 secured to the proximal surface *p* of the absorbent core 14 and the backing layer 16 attached and sealed to at least part of the distal surface *d* of the absorbent core 14.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 12, after line 24.

In an exemplary embodiment, FIG. 12 shows how the facing layer 12 may be configured to have different sized apertures 34, 86. According to this embodiment, the apertures are arranged in rows wherein the large apertures 86 alternate with the smaller apertures 34.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 29, line 13 with the following marked-up paragraph.

In a preferred method, the facing layer and its apertures are formed prior to being bonded onto the absorbent core. A perforation device 42 is preferably used to form the facing layer and its apertures. As shown in

FIGS. 19 and 20, the perforation device 42 includes a generally planar carrier surface 47 having a plurality of needle-like perforating elements 44 that extend a distance therefrom. The perforation device 42, including the carrier surface [[43]] 47 and the perforating elements 44, is selectively heated to a curing temperature of the silicone. The carrier surface 47 and the perforating elements 44 are coated with a release film, such as TEFLON.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 31, line 15 with the following marked-up paragraph.

In another method for applying the facing layer to the absorbent core in the present invention, a partially cured, silicone layer 12 is deposited onto a transfer film upon which apertures are formed in the silicone layer 12 by rotating a mechanical roller 46 thereon. As exemplified in FIG. 21, the mechanical roller 46 has a patterned surface that is similar in construction to the carrier surface [[43]] 47 and the perforation elements 44 of the aforesaid perforation device 42 depicted in FIGS. 19-20. In forming the apertures, perforation elements 44 of the mechanical roller 46 are heated to about 100°C or to the curing temperature of the silicone layer. The mechanical roller 46 may either be applied against the partially cured silicone layer after the silicone layer 12 has been applied to the absorbent core 14 or may be applied against the silicone layer while adhered to a transfer film prior to the application thereof to the absorbent core.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 27 with the following marked-up paragraph.

The perforating elements 44 are inserted into at least a portion of the thickness of the absorbent core 14 and air is blown through the ~~needles~~ projection elements 44 towards respective portions of the silicone layer 12. The air blown through the perforating elements 44 cures the silicone layer 12 and further forms apertures through the silicone layer 12. After an adequate period of time and upon formation of the apertures, the device 42 carrying the needles 44 is withdrawn from the absorbent core 14. The film 38 is subsequently removed from the silicone layer 12. A silicone primer, as described above, may be applied to the absorbent core 14 to the application of the silicone layer 12 thereon to improve the adherence of the silicone layer to the absorbent core.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 20 with the following marked-up paragraph.

In a method exemplified in FIGS. 25-28, the preparation of the absorbent core 14 of the dressing 20 of the invention may be conducted as follows. First, a plurality of projection elements [[56]] 57 are heated to a suitable temperature and are inserted into a surface of the absorbent core 14. The projection elements [[56]] 57 are heated to a temperature in the range of 200-300°C, preferably 255°C. The projection elements [[56]] 57 extend into the absorbent core 14 a distance less than its total thickness. The projection elements [[56]] 57 are preferably arranged in a pattern bearing the negative impression of the receptacles 18 of the absorbent core 14. The projection elements [[56]] 57 are removed from the absorbent core 14 after a period of time, thereby forming the receptacles 18 in the absorbent core 14.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 35, line 1 with the following marked-up paragraph.

The discrete portions of absorbent material 20 are deposited into the receptacles 18 by positioning a silicone film 58 between aligned top and bottom plates 60, 62 having a plurality of holes 64 corresponding to the plurality of projection elements [[56]] 57 used to form the receptacles 18. A predetermined amount of the absorbent material 20 is deposited into each of the holes of the top plate 60 and the projection elements [[56]] 57 used to form the receptacles are inserted through the plurality of holes of the top and bottom plates 60, 62, and the silicone film 58 so as to deposit and compact the absorbent material 20 into each of the receptacles 18.